

## Literature Cited

Blatchley, W.S. 1926. Heteroptera or True Bugs of Eastern North America. Nature Publishing Co., Indianapolis, Indiana. 1116 pp.

Franklin, H.J. 1950. Cranberry insects in Massachusetts. Parts II.-VII. Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 445. 88 pp.

Frost, C. C., & L. J. Musselman. 1987. History and vegetation of the Blackwater Ecologic Preserve. *Castanea* 52: 16-46.

Judd, W. W. 1960. Studies of the Byron Bog in southwestern Ontario. XI. Seasonal distribution of adult insects in the *Chamadaphnetum calyculatae* association. *Canadian Entomologist* 92: 241-251.

Knight, H. H. 1923. Family Miridae (Capsidae). Pp. 422-658, in W. E. Britton (ed.), Guide to the Insects of Connecticut. Part IV. The Hemiptera or Sucking Insects of Connecticut. Connecticut State Geological and Natural History Survey Bulletin 34.

Knight, H. H. 1941. The plant bugs, or Miridae, of Illinois. *Illinois Natural History Survey Bulletin* 22. 234 pp.

Larochelle, A. 1984. Les Punaises Terrestres (Heteropteres: Geocoris) du Quebec. *Fabriques Supplément* 3. 513 p.

A. G. Wheeler, Jr.  
Department of Entomology, Clemson University  
Clemson, South Carolina 29634

---

*Banisteria*, Number 8, 1996

© 1996 by the Virginia Natural History Society

DELETION OF THE SPIDER *THERIDION MONTANUM* FROM THE VIRGINIA FAUNAL LIST (ARANEIDA:THERIDIIDAE). ~ Although many kinds of small spiders occupy enormous geographic ranges, possibly as a result of "ballooning" by juveniles, most

species are nonetheless constrained by one or more major environmental variables (chiefly climatic) and occur only in those regions that afford the necessary niche specifications. On a previous occasion (1982) I noted the implausibility of cold-adapted spiders (e. g. *Araneus nordmanni* [Thorell]) being indigenous to southern Texas particularly if the record(s) came from a collection known to be replete with curatorial labeling errors. When any organism is recorded from a site that is both geographically and ecologically disjunct from its established area, critical examination of the documentation can often rectify the problem.

In his revision of the genus *Theridion*, H. W. Levi (1957: 71) examined material of *T. montanum* Emerton from a distinctly boreal range extending from southern Alaska to Newfoundland and south through the Rocky Mountains to northcentral New Mexico. A single spot was also mapped for southwest Virginia, on the basis of a collection cited as "Virginia: Grout's Mill, Stratton, Dickenson County (J. H. Emerton)". While there is no reason that such a species could not occur far to the south along the higher Appalachians, two points suggested incorrect labeling: the material was collected by a New England resident not known to have done field work in Virginia, and there is neither a Grout's Mill nor a place called Stratton in Dickenson County or anywhere else in Virginia. Levi himself noted that this "...may be an erroneous record."

Recently, while reading through some old literature about American centipeds, I happened to notice that the type locality of the lithobiid *Sonibius parvus* Chamberlin (1922: 316) was cited as "Vermont: Grout's Mill, near Mt. Stratton." Reference to several detailed maps of Vermont disclosed that the localities Mount Stratton, Stratton, and Grout's Pond are clustered in the westernmost part of Windham County, 17 miles (28 km) northeast of Bennington. Some kind of curatorial labeling error obviously occurred with the sample of *T. montanum*: a handwritten "VT" might have been mistaken for "VA", but how Dickenson County became involved is not clear.

Although this published record for *montanum* in Virginia is canceled, it remains entirely possible that the species could eventually be found, e.g., in the red spruce-balsam forest on Mount Mitchell, NC, above 6000 feet. Or, perhaps less likely, in the same habitat type at Mount Rogers, Virginia. Many other small arthropods are currently known in the southern Appalachians apparently disjunct from populations in the Adirondacks or White Mountains.

## Literature Cited

Chamberlin, Ralph V. 1922. Further studies on North American Lithobiidae. *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology* 57: 259-383.

Hoffman, Richard L. 1982. A note on supposed Texan localities for some species of *Araneus*. *Journal of Arachnology* 10: 93-95.

Levi, Herbert W. 1957. The spider genera *Enoplognatha*, *Theridion*, and *Paidisca* in America north of Mexico. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 112: 1-123.

Richard L. Hoffman  
Virginia Museum of Natural History  
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

---

*Banisteria*, Number 8, 1996  
© 1996 by the Virginia Natural History Society

WINTER ACTIVITY RECORDS OF THE COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE (*CHELYDRA SERPENTINA SERPENTINA*) IN VIRGINIA — Winter records of reptiles in Virginia have been published on an irregular basis. Mitchell & Kirk (1996) detailed the discovery of a frozen eastern worm snake (*Carphophis amoenus amoenus*) following snow melt and heavy winter rains in January. Rainbow snakes (*Farancia erytrogramma*) are well known for being active in winter. Richmond (1945) observed one being eaten by a hawk on ice in February in New Kent County. An eastern kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula getula*) was reported to be active in Gloucester County when snow was on the ground in December (Mitchell, 1994). On warm days in January and February, eastern painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta picta*) are often seen basking on logs in ponds and individuals have been caught while swimming in cold water (JCM, pers. obs.). Records of winter activity for common snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*) in Virginia have not been published. Available activity records occur in late March through October (Mitchell, 1994). Two records of winter activity (December and January) have been reported for eastern locations in North Carolina (Palmer & Braswell, 1995).

On 21 January 1996 a male snapping turtle (221 mm carapace length [CL], 151 mm plastron length [PL], 2.45 kg) was discovered by a local citizen on the bank of the South River near Grottos, Rockingham County, Virginia. It was found about 3 m above the edge of the river adjacent the Grand Caverns commercial property. The turtle was seen initially on 20 January and apparently had not moved for at least 24 h. The river had flooded above this location two days earlier from the heavy rains (4.1 cm over the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>) and snow melt that caused extensive flooding in the Shenandoah Valley. Daytime highs were 15 and 12° C and lows were 5 and -7° C on these two days, respectively (National Climatic Data Center, 1996). The person who made the initial observation brought the turtle to The Wildlife Center of Virginia because he had noticed blood around the mouth. The oral cavity was healthy without wounds or lesions, and there was no active bleeding. No injuries or lesions were found on shell or skin of the limbs, neck, or head. Several leeches, probably *Placobella* sp., were attached to skin folds of the neck and legs. The turtle was released on 24 January in the South River at the original location.

Another male common snapping turtle (338 mm CL, 241 mm PL, 8.1 kg) was brought to The Wildlife Center on 16 February 1996 after it was found immobile and exposed on the ground some 18 m from Narrow Passage Creek northwest of Woodstock, Shenandoah County, Virginia. Temperatures in the three days preceding this observation averaged 3.7° C (0.56 to 8.9 highs) and -3.7° C (-7.2 to -1.1, lows). No rain fell during this period. The turtle had no apparent injuries or problems except for a well-healed L-shaped scar (47 x 40 mm) on the second and third pleural scutes on the left side of the carapace. It was picked up on 19 February and released near its original location.

The first observation suggests that the snapping turtle was dislodged from its overwintering site by the flood and was apparently injured slightly during the event. The second observation has too few associated data to allow us to speculate on why it was on land in mid-February.

The effects of flooding on reptiles are not well investigated. Mitchell & Georgel (1996) described a northern water snake (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*) that had apparently been injured in a flood event in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Severe flood events in Virginia, especially those that occur in winter, undoubtedly cause injury and mortality of numerous reptiles but go unnoticed by the scientific community. All observations of winter activity and displacement by flood events should be reported.